UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/45/122
3 April 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 100

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/756)]

45/122. Criminal justice education

The General Assembly,

Aware that one of the main objectives of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice is the continued promotion of a more effective administration of justice, the strengthening of international co-operation in the fight against transnational crime, the observance of human rights and the pursuance of the highest standards of fairness, efficiency, humanity and professional conduct,

Recalling in this context its resolution 44/72 of 8 December 1989 in which it expressed the hope that the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would make a major contribution to the solution of problems related to crime prevention and criminal justice,

Noting the views expressed at previous congresses concerning the need for collaboration between criminal justice agencies and educational authorities in the development of crime prevention programmes,

Recognizing that existing approaches to crime prevention and control have not always proved effective,

Calling attention to its resolution 42/104 of 7 December 1987, by which it proclaimed the year 1990 as International Literacy Year, the aim of which is the eradication of illiteracy in the world, and its resolution 44/127 of 15 December 1989,

Bearing in mind its resolution 44/61 of 8 December 1989 on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights,

Convinced that the development of public information activities in the field of criminal justice should include the creation and implementation of mechanisms to enable Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and professional criminal justice associations to be familiar with ongoing criminal justice and crime prevention activities in the work of the United Nations,

Mindful that the Eighth Congress, in its resolution 5 of 5 September 1990 on the consolidation of the role of national correspondents in the crime prevention and criminal justice field, resolution 14 of 6 September 1990 on social aspects of crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development, resolution 19 of 7 September 1990 on management of criminal justice and development of sentencing policies, and resolution 4 of 5 September 1990 on international co-operation and mutual assistance through training programmes and exchange of expertise, 1/ as well as in its resolution on the computerization of criminal justice, recommended to the General Assembly for adoption, 2/ made several recommendations for strengthening education activities in the criminal justice field, which included better dissemination of information on those activities among interested Member States and other parties,

Mindful also that education has a potential role to play in ameliorating the conditions that give rise to crime and to the consequences of criminality,

Determined that education should play an important role in crime prevention and criminal justice through such means as education for the general awareness of the public, education of the young for crime prevention, education aimed at the total personal development of prisoners and other offenders and continuing education of the criminal justice personnel,

Aware that comprehensive approaches are required for a lasting and systemic impact on criminal justice education with a view to attaining higher standards of fairness, efficiency and professional conduct of criminal justice personnel,

1. Endorses the initiatives made by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in the above-mentioned resolutions, which aim at strengthening national and international efforts in criminal justice education, including the enhancement of the role of criminal justice education in the activities of Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and control;

2. Invites Member States to review existing education practices in respect of both offenders and personnel in crime prevention and criminal justice;

3. Also invites Member States to involve educational experts, as appropriate, in crime prevention and criminal justice and to encourage related educational research and publications;

1/ See A/CONF.144/28, chap. I, sect. B.

2/ See resolution 45/109.

4. Further invites Member States to advise criminal justice staff periodically through their professional associations, journals or other publications and records, on United Nations developments relevant to their area of work;

5. Invites all Member States to include in their educational curricula materials relevant to a comprehensive understanding of criminal justice and crime prevention issues, and encourages all those responsible for criminal law and criminal justice reforms, training in law and its enforcement, the armed forces, medicine, diplomacy and other relevant fields to include appropriate criminal justice and crime prevention components in their programmes;

6. Also invites Member States to encourage collaboration between criminal justice agencies and educational authorities in the development of crime prevention programmes and to encourage educational authorities to give increased attention to ethical and socialization programmes in their curricula and to other relevant measures referred to in the inventory of comprehensive crime prevention measures submitted to the Eighth Congress; 3/

7. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of increased use of education in crime prevention and criminal justice with a view to preparing a study on the relationship between crime, education and development and of presenting the first results in a progress report to be submitted to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its twelfth session;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in co-operation with other offices and national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and control, to continue to develop and maintain a list of criminal justice journals and relevant public media programmes, with a view to the dissemination of information on United Nations activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice for educational purposes;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of relevant national criminal justice and educational authorities the United Nations standards, norms and other selected recommendations with a view to ensuring their more widespread and systematic dissemination in relevant training and educational programmes;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to develop technical co-operation programmes, including interregional advisory services, with a view to enhancing the role of education in the operation of crime prevention and criminal justice, taking into account the interdisciplinary nature of such co-operation programmes;

11. Recommends that the Secretary-General should establish, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, electronic data bases within the United

---

3/ See A/CONF.144/9.

Nations Criminal Justice Information Network, which should include information on the network of national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and information on educational and training programmes in the criminal justice field, with a view to disseminating information to the international criminal justice community more effectively;

12. Invites the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute substantively, logistically and financially to the development of educational programmes within the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and to the establishing of the above-mentioned data bases;

13. Urges the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders to include educational issues in their research and training programmes;

14. Requests the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, as the preparatory body for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to keep the matter under review;

15. Recommends that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and preparatory meetings to the Ninth Congress further consider the role of education with a view to facilitating educational approaches in crime prevention and criminal justice.

68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990